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RAMBLING RHIZOMES

MARCH 2012

NEWSLETTER OF THE TUCSON AREA IRIS SOCIETY

tucsoniris.org



We Grow To Show:

What a fabulous time of year for iris growers. The bloom stalks are starting to poke out of the fans and soon we'll have colors galore. With the warm weather we had, everything is a little early. I have 3 varieties in bloom today. To encourage more people to grow iris, "We grow to show." So March 24th, Kathy Chilton is going to give a presentation on "Preparing iris for show." Hopefully this will encourage more of our members to bring iris for our show which will be on April 15th at the Tucson Botanical Gardens. There will be special awards given for 1st place, 2nd place and Best in show. I'm hopeful that we have a good number of bloom stalks. We are also inviting members to bring mixed arrangements for exhibition only. Several people have asked me to give another presentation on Landscaping with iris in Arizona, so I will do a repeat performance. At 1PM at the show.



Gordon Jensen

PHOTO COURTESY OF GORDON JENSEN

March TAIS Meeting:

Saturday, March 24

1 – 4 P.M.

Dusenberry Branch

Library

5605 River Road

Presenter: Kathy Chilton

Preparing Iris for Show



PHOTO COURTESY OF GORDON JENSEN

IRIS TIP OF THE MONTH:

ROOT ROT TREATMENT:

- 1. TRIM AWAY THE ROT.*
- 2. DISINFECT THE REST OF THE RHIZOME WITH EITHER A SULPHUR DUSTING OR A BLEACH SOAK, MADE OF 5% BLEACH SOLUTION (1 PART BLEACH & 19 PARTS WATER)*
- 3. SOAK FOR 20 – 30 MIN. AND RINSE WELL.*
- 4. ALLOW TO DRY FOR SEVERAL DAYS*

**TREASURER'S REPORT FOR MARCH
2012: BALANCE ON HAND: \$4591.85**

2012 SEEDLINGS BY MARGIE VALENZUELA



Seedling Sly Fox Cross



Reblooming Luminata

A SPRINGTIME IRIS WELCOME TO NEW MEMBER KRISTEE WEST!

Hi, I'm Kristee West, a new member in TAIS. In October, 2011, I moved from Las Cruces, NM to Quail Creek in Green Valley, AZ., and of course had to bring some irises with me. I dug and donated many to the Mesilla Valley Iris Society for their sale in September, so there were only 20 of my very favorites to plant when I arrived. I haven't figured out where the best place to locate my raised beds will be, so my irises are planted in various kinds of pots. The best growth so far has been in the self-watering 31" window boxes with Miracle Grow Moisture Control potting mix that have had great daylight on the south side of the house from November until February. I moved them to the east side of the house on February 11th. Wish me luck for the first year bloom in their new location.

In June 2000, I moved from Rochester, NY to Las Cruces, and of course had to bring some irises with me. The east northeast bed that I planted them in had over 6 hours of sunlight when I planted them, but as my landscape trees and shrubs grew, less than one quarter of the bed had sufficient daylight to keep the irises blooming reliably.

In 1991, I moved to a different house in Rochester, and my neighbor gave me several varieties of tall bearded irises. It was my first attempt to grow iris myself, but I already had caught the 'iris virus' as a young girl in my grandmother's vegetable garden in Lakewood, CO.

To know more about me, see the articles with pictures printed in Fall 2010 and Fall 2011 "Tall Talk Magazine" from the Tall Bearded Iris Society. I am an AIS and TBIS member. I look forward to talking with all of you and seeing your gardens.

Kristee West

ekristeewest@hotmail.com

WELCOME KRISTEE!!!

All of the pictures of iris in this edition of *Rambling Rhizomes*, except for the cover story, are new introductions and seedlings developed by Margie Valenzuela. Thank you for sharing these beautiful iris with the readers of our newsletter, Margie.

Introducing 'Cali-Zona Gold' and
other fine 2012 Introductions by

Margie Valenzuela



'Cali-Zona Gold'

TB, 34-36" M, ML "Lines and Speckles"
pattern is available for \$40. Contact Margie
Valenzuela at irislady@comcast.net or
Stanton Iris Garden at
www.stantonirisgardens.com

2012 introductions by
Margie Valenzuela
available from Nola's Iris Garden:



'Blue Coyote'
TB 34-35"



'Desert Legacy' BB
25-26" * Reblooms!



'My Little Wagon'
TB 33-34"



'Naturally Sweet'
TB 35-36"



'Pamela Rae'
TB 31"



'Prismatic Crown'
TB 34-35"

www.walking-p-bar.com/shopsite

TAIS CALENDAR:

SUNDAY, APRIL 15TH – ANNUAL SHOW & SALE
SET UP 9 AM - JUDGING AT 10:30 AM - OPEN TILL 4 PM
TUCSON BOTANICAL GARDENS - 2150 N. ALVERNON

SATURDAY, MAY 12TH
PRESENTATION ON CONVENTION
1 – 4 PM
DUSENBERRY BRANCH LIBRARY - 5605 EAST RIVER ROAD

FIND IT ON: THESE 'IRIS GARDEN' WEBSITES

SUBMITTED BY: MARGIE VALENZUELA

It's looking and feeling a lot like spring, isn't it? And as it does, we are looking forward to those irises in bloom! And, as they bloom, we cannot help but wonder what other newer iris varieties must be out there. What might they look like? How might they look in my yard? And where would I see them, and possibly purchase a few that might "catch my eye?" Below is a list of a few Iris Garden websites which are open for business right now!

C and T Iris Patch

<http://www.candtirispatch.com/catalog.php?item=21&catid=Rebloomer>

Nola's Iris Garden

<http://www.walking-p-bar.com/shopsites/index.html>

Superstition Iris Garden

<http://community.webshots.com/user/rickt103>

Comanche Acres Iris Garden

<http://comancheacresiris.com>

Rockytop Gardens

<http://rockytopgardens.com>

Mid-America Garden

http://www.beardedirisflowers.com/default.aspx/iris_details.aspx

Aiken Salmon Creek Garden

http://flowerfantasy.net/shop/category.php?id_category=34

Snowpeak Iris and Daylillies Gardens

<http://www.snowpeakiris.com>

Stout Iris and Daylily gardens

<http://www.stoutgardens.com/servlet/StoreFront>

Schreiner Iris Gardens

<http://schreinersgardens.com>

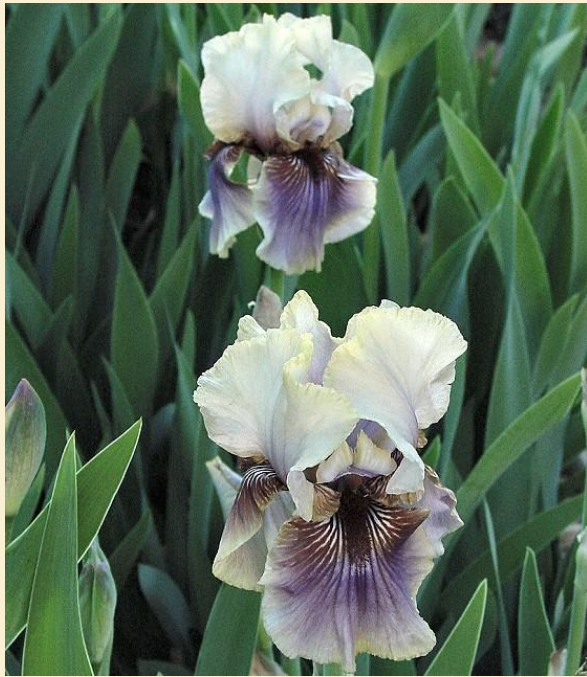
Argyle Acres Iris Gardens

<http://www.argyleacres.com>

Joe Ghio's 2012 introductions (viewing website, not a sales website)

<http://montereybayiris.org/ghio12.php>

Of course, there are many more wonderful iris gardens online; some of those are not yet open for 2012, and others I just haven't space to list. I hope you take a look.....if for no other reason than to enjoy all the gorgeous irises that can be found here in the USA. Happy Bloom Season! Margie



2012 Seedling by Margie Valenzuela
Unusual Seedling TB

2012 Seedling by Margie Valenzuela
SSG-08-9



2012 Seedling by Margie Valenzuela
Pastel Luminata – The First



Dark Velvet Falls Seedling



Louisa's Song Seedling



2012 Seedlings by Margie Valenzuela

IRIS COLOR PATTERNS (FROM BASIC IRIS CULTURE - BY ROY EPPERSON)

Submitted by: Melania Kutz

The genus iris is named for Iris, the goddess of the Rainbow, because irises show a great range of color and color patterns. There are approaches to red, but no red iris. The following descriptions will aid you in identifying the types of colors of irises:

1. SELF – Standards (upper petals) and falls (lower petals) are the same color. A true self also has beards of the same color.
2. PLICATA – A color pattern where a lighter ground color is stippled, dotted, or stitched with a darker color emanating from the margins of the petals.
3. BITONE – Flowers have standards and falls of different amounts of the same color. Ordinarily the falls are darker than the standards. When the standards are darker, it is called a “reverse bitone.”
4. BICOLOR – Standards and falls are a different color, the falls usually being darker than the standards.
5. BLEND – A color pattern where a combination or mixture of two or more colors are present in the same parts of the flower.
6. AMOENA – Standards are white and falls are a different color. A reverse amoena has white falls and standards of a darker color.
7. VARIEGATA – A bicolor with yellow standards and darker, usually red falls.
8. NEGLECTA – A blue or violet bicolor with darker colored falls.
9. LUMINATA – The falls have a brushed pattern, with paler veins and a clear, unmarked area (spot) around the beards.



2012 Seedling by Margie Valenzuela

Last 20 Days in April

TUCSON AREA IRIS SOCIETY (TAIS) MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

NAME(S) _____

ADDRESS (STREET, CITY, STATE, ZIP)

PHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

IF YOU PREFER SNAIL MAIL AND DO NOT WANT NEWSLETTERS MAILED, PLEASE INDICATE. _____

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO TAIS. CHECK CATEGORY BELOW:

SINGLE \$15.00 _____ DUAL \$18.00 _____ YOUTH \$5.00 _____

MAIL APPLICATION AND CHECK TO:

HL SWAIN, TREASURER, 4532 E. HOLMES, TUCSON, AZ 85711

PLEASE CHECK ALL OPPORTUNITIES THAT YOU WOULD BE INTERESTED IN:

_____ ASSIST AT IRIS SALES

_____ ASSIST AT SPRING SHOW

_____ BRING REFRESHMENTS TO MEETINGS

TAIS CONTACT INFO:

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MEMBERSHIP: Lucille
Skerston
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PUBLICITY: Melania Kutz
SALE: Gordon Jensen & Dian
Curran
SHOW: Greta Dunnigan, Paul
Bessey, Sue Caloric

2012 seedling by Margie Valenquela: AJLS-06-A



They ask but our Delight -

The Darlings of the Soil

And grant us all their Countenance

For a penurious smile.

By Emily Dickinson (1945)